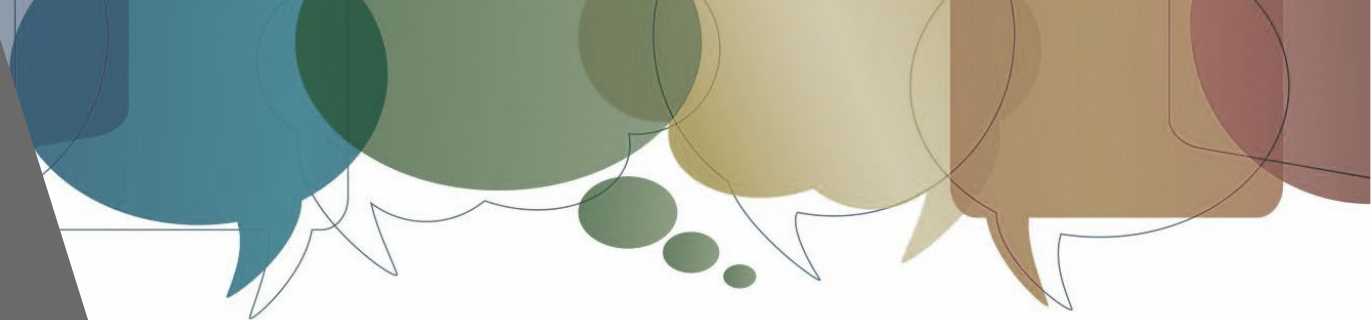




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PULSE REPORT ON COVID-19 – REPORT #87

CABINET OFFICE

June 29th 2021



KEY FINDINGS

Key Findings

1 This week, the 'right track' score increased to 62% after having ranged from 48% to 60% over the past several weeks. The increase in 'right track' scores occurred among those who see the government as 'somewhat on the right track'.

'Right track' scores increased in varying degrees for all age groups and among both men and women. 'Right track' scores also improved in all four regions, with the Toronto suburbs continuing to have the highest score and the other regions now at close to parity.

3 As the vaccine rollout picks up and the economy starts to re-open, Ontarians appear to be wanting to spend money. About four-in-ten (38%) say they will be spending more money this year. This is much higher than a year ago when only 15% indicated that they wished to spend more.

However, most Ontarians continue to think it will take quite a while for the economy to recover from the impact of COVID-19 and want to hear more about the government's plans for economic recovery, with over eight-in-ten (85%) agreeing with this.

Importantly, Ontarians continue to be uncertain whether the government has a plan for economic recovery from the impact of COVID-19 shutdowns, with half (49%) believing that the government doesn't have a plan.

2 While results for 'keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation' remained unchanged, positive ratings on 'effectively managing vaccinations' declined for the second straight week – although it remains the highest rated health metric.

4 While COVID-19 continues to be Ontarians' top priority requiring attention from the government, it has been trending down while the economy and housing/affordable housing has crept up slightly in recent weeks.

Eight-in-ten (82%) Ontarians also continue to agree that it's time for the Ontario government to start focusing more attention on economic recovery.

And, there has been movement this week with 53% of Ontarians now indicating they think the government's focus in the coming months should be on economic issues and 39% saying health-related issues - after being close to parity for several weeks.

Key Findings

Ontarians are more inclined to support the reopening of the Canadian-US border to non-essential travel at this point compared to last summer and fall, and support has continued to edge upward. About six-in-ten (58%) now support the re-opening.

However, most Ontarians support requiring a proof of full vaccination (84%) or proof of a recent negative COVID-19 test (78%) when the border with the US re-opens for non-essential travel.

Ontarians are split about the impact of re-opening the border with the US to non-essential travel: 48% think there would be little or no impact in the number of COVID-19 cases in the province, while 48% think there would be a significant increase in infections.

There is also concern about the possibility of a fourth wave, with 68% of Ontarians saying they are concerned. The intensity of concern also increased this week.

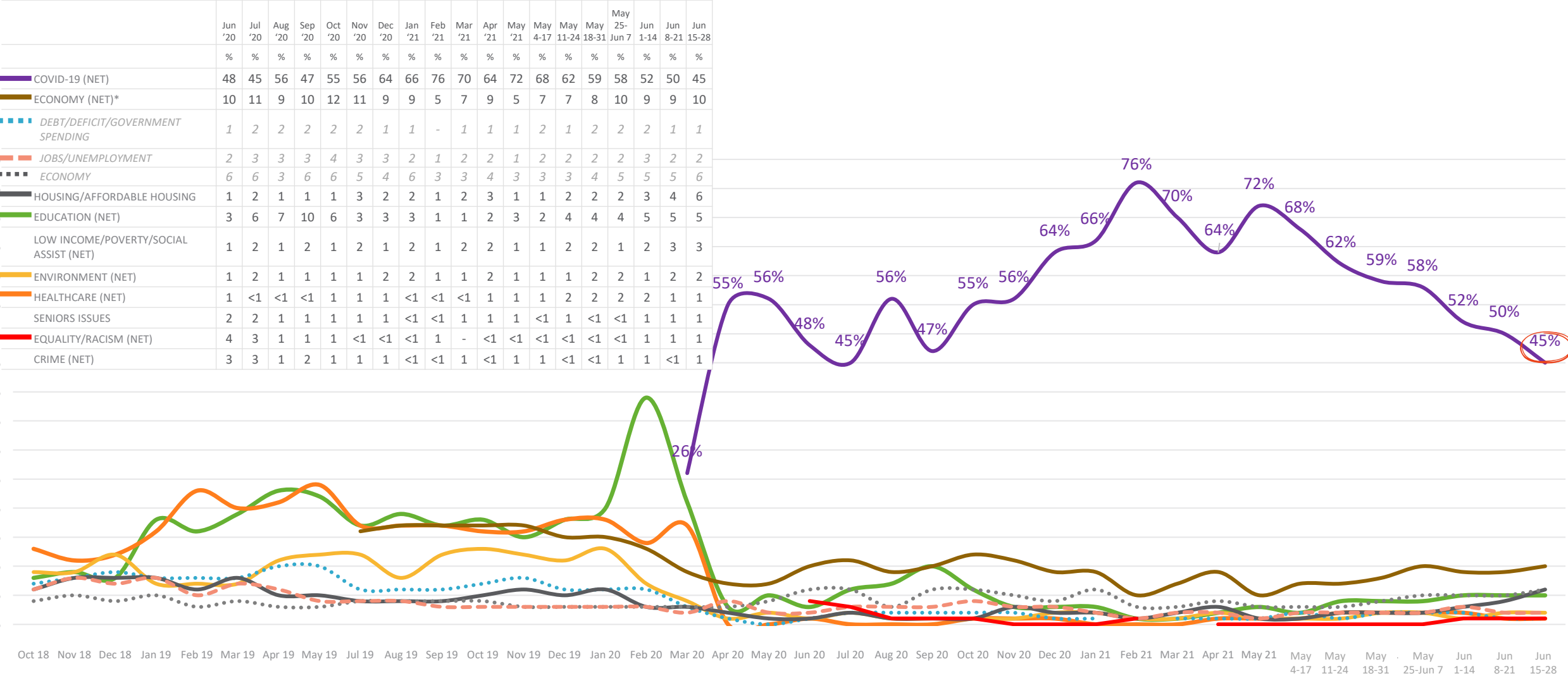
That said, three-quarters (75%) of Ontarians feel the Ontario government is prepared to handle a fourth wave of infections if a COVID-19 variant spreads rapidly. Results are now on par with the fall of last year regarding preparation for a second wave of infections.

TOP ONTARIO GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES



ONTARIANS' TOP PRIORITIES REQUIRING ATTENTION FROM THE GOVERNMENT

While COVID-19 continues to be the top priority, it has been trending down, while the economy and housing/affordable housing has crept up slightly in recent weeks.



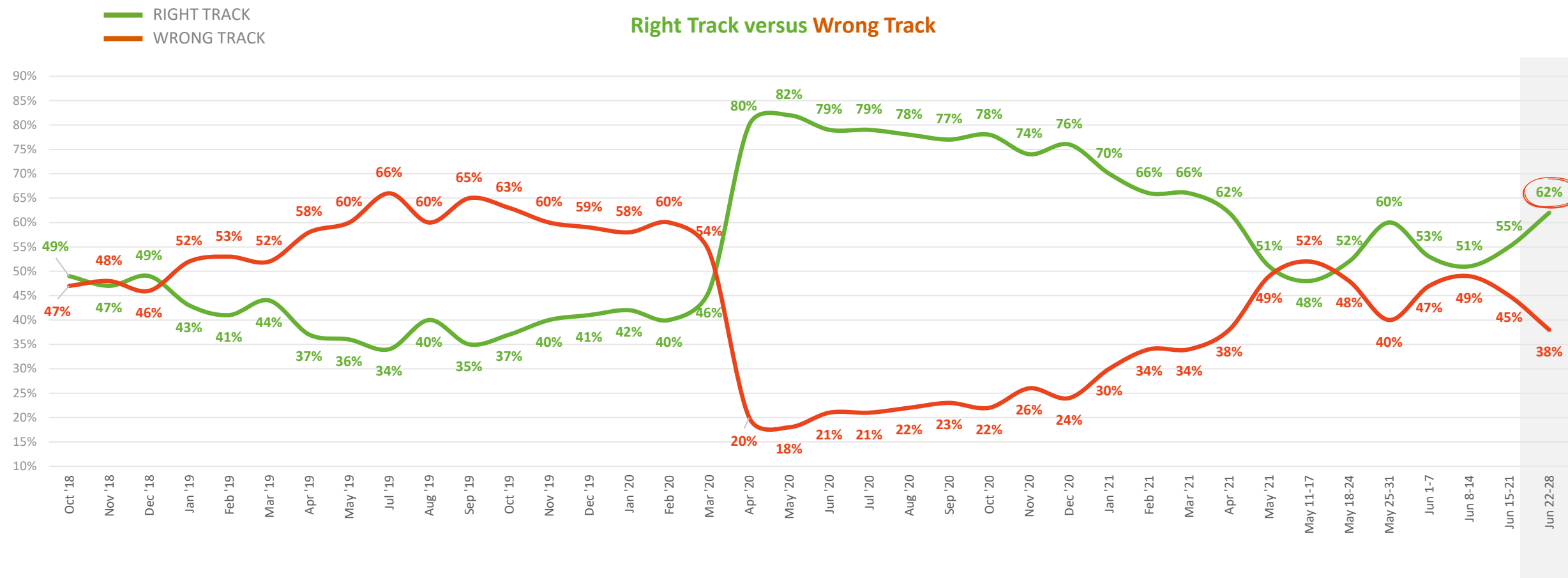
*ECONOMIC (NET) includes: Debt/Deficit/Government spending/Balance budget, Jobs/unemployment, Economy, Taxes

Q1. Thinking about the issues presently facing Ontario, which ONE do you feel should receive the GREATEST attention from the Ontario provincial government? That is, what should be the top priority?

RIGHT TRACK
WRONG TRACK

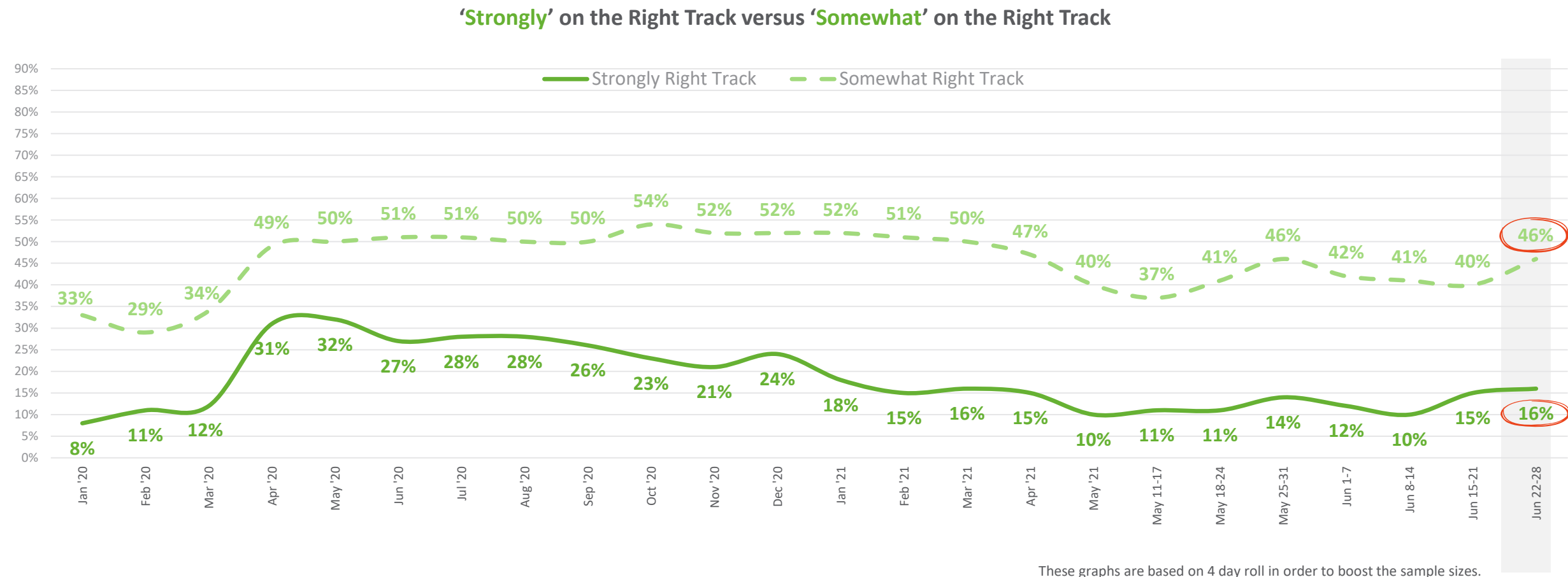


For the second straight week, ‘right track’ scores have increased and is now at 62%. Given the recent volatility of this metric, it may be wise to wait for a few more weeks of data to determine whether a trend is evident.



Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

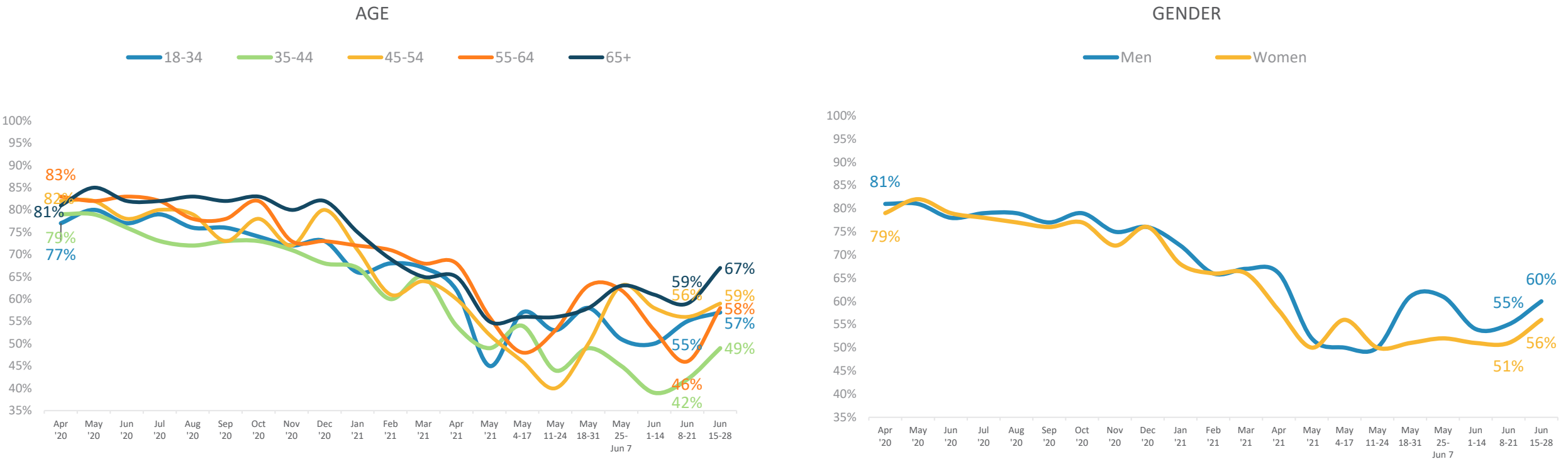
This increase in ‘right track’ scores is a result of improvements among Ontarians who see the government as ‘somewhat on the right track’.



Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

‘Right track’ scores have increased among all age groups. ‘Right track’ scores remain highest among those aged 65+ and lowest among Ontarians aged 35-44. ‘Right track’ scores increased among both men and women.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

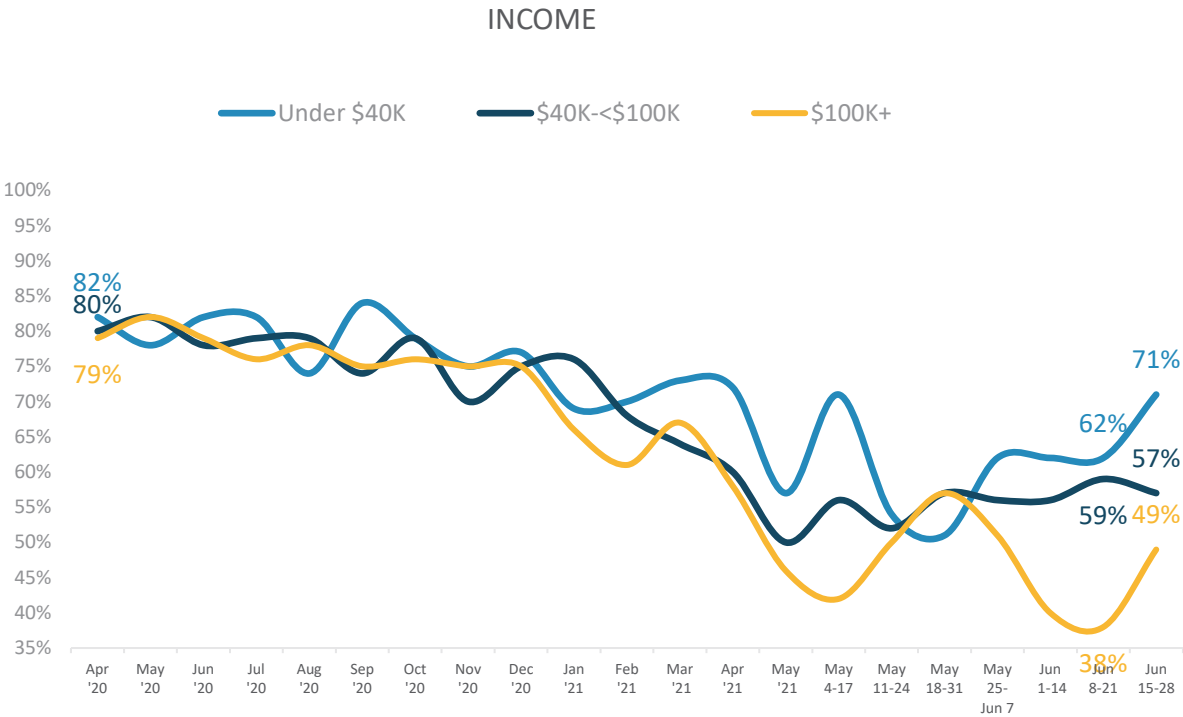
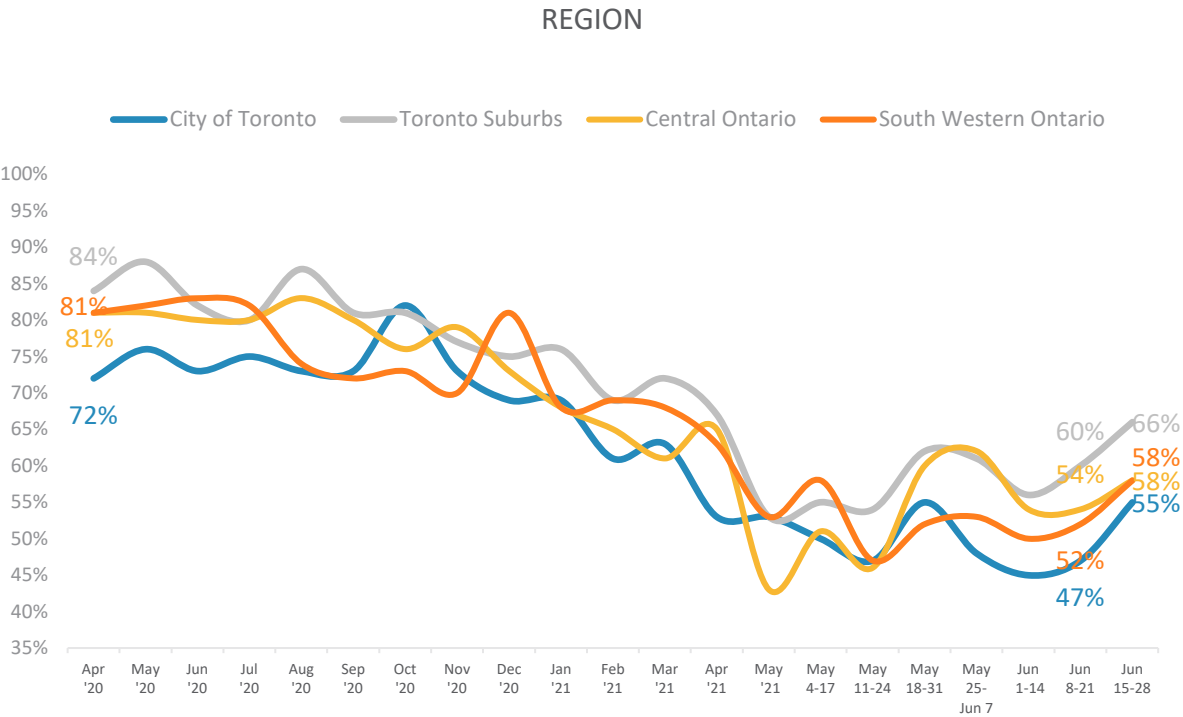


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

‘Right track’ scores also improved in all four regions, with the Toronto suburbs continuing to have the highest score and the other regions now at close to parity. There were also increases measured among those making <\$40k and >\$100k this week.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



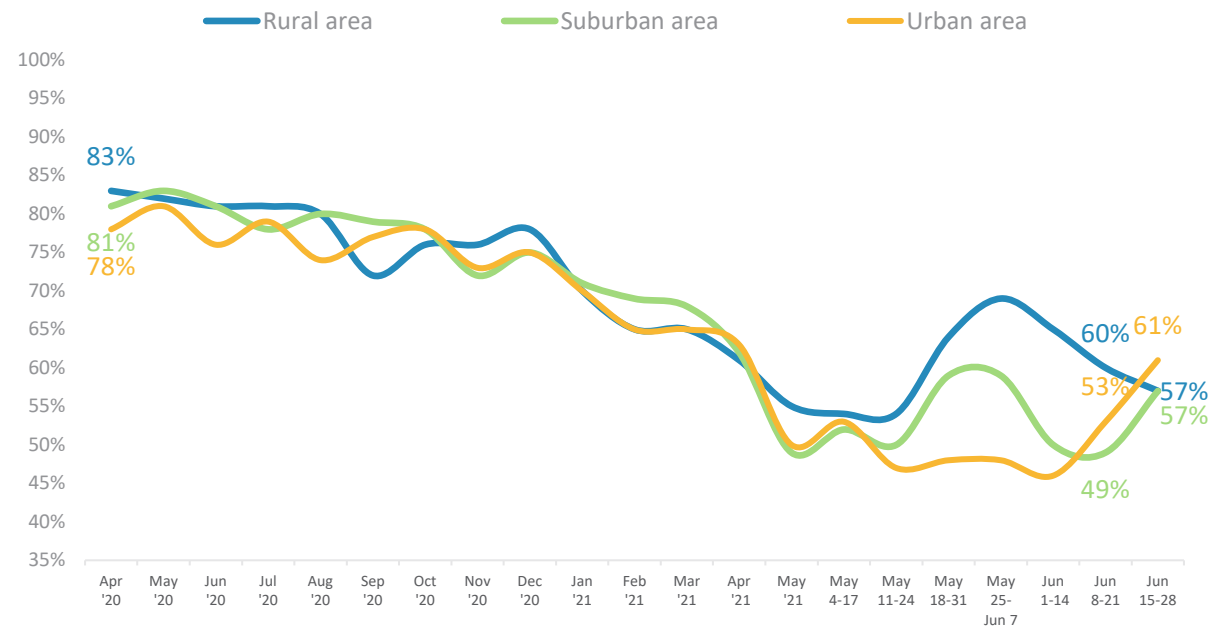
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

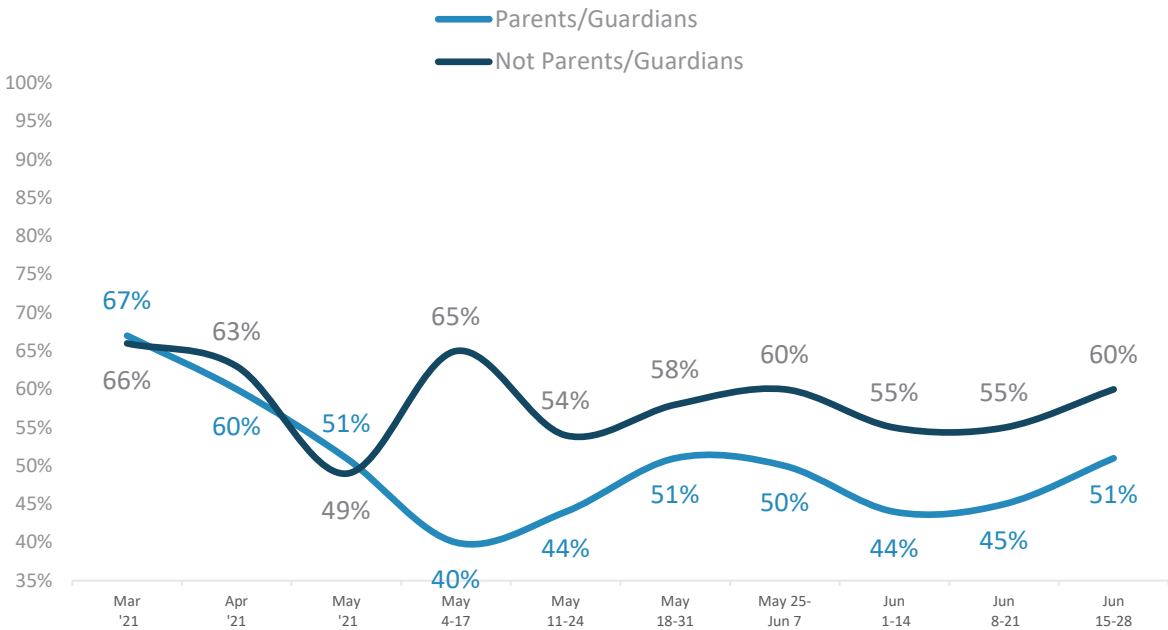
After being highest in rural areas for the last few weeks, ‘right track’ scores are now higher in urban areas. Rural and suburban ‘right track’ scores are now at parity.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS



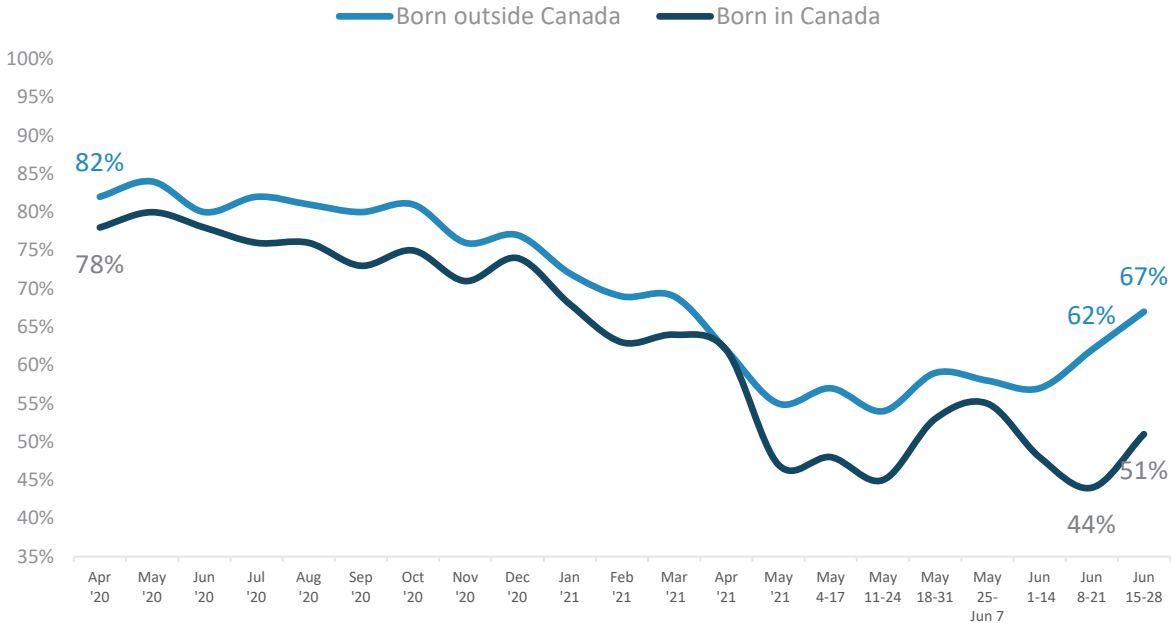
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

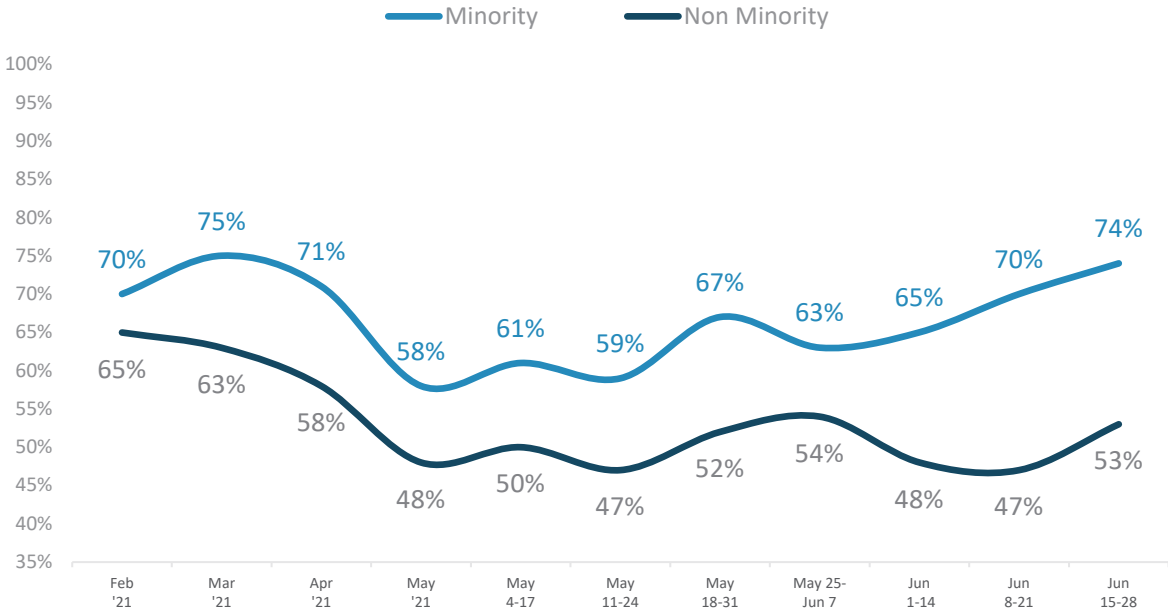
Increases were also measured among those born in and outside of Canada, as well as minorities and non-minorities. However, ‘right track’ scores remain highest among those born outside Canada and among minorities.

Right Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



MINORITY VS NON MINORITY

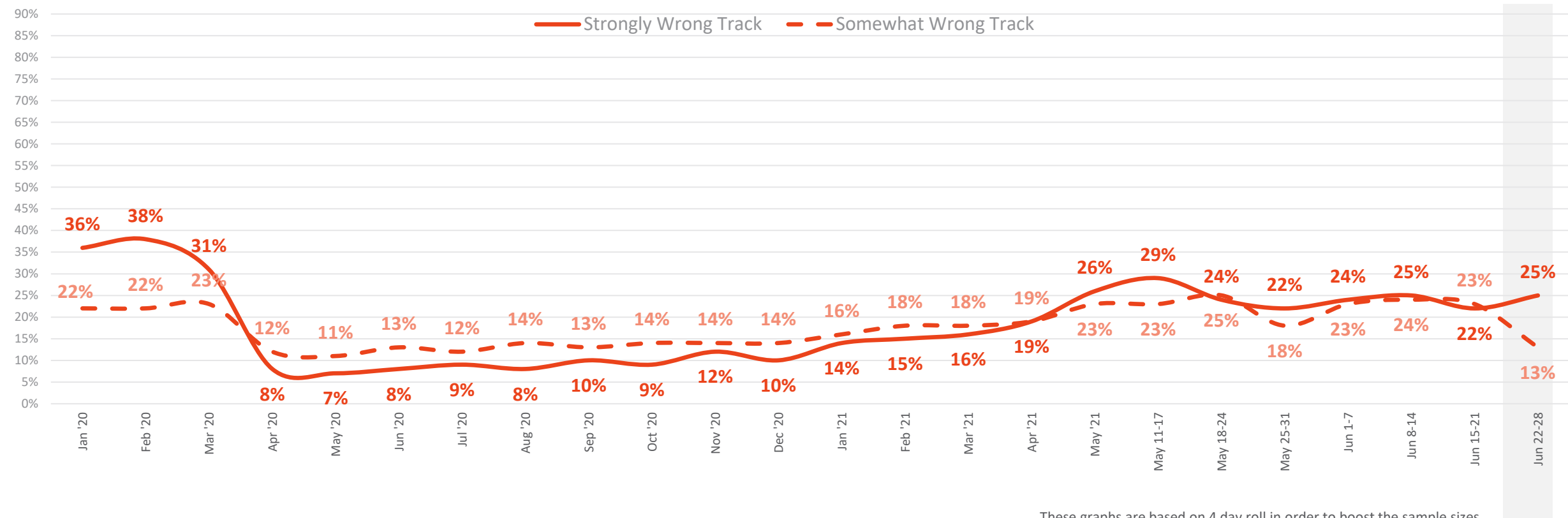


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

While there was a slight uptick in the proportion who believe the government is ‘strongly on the wrong track’, ‘somewhat on the wrong track’ declined 10-points this week.

‘Strongly’ on the Wrong Track versus ‘Somewhat’ on the Wrong Track

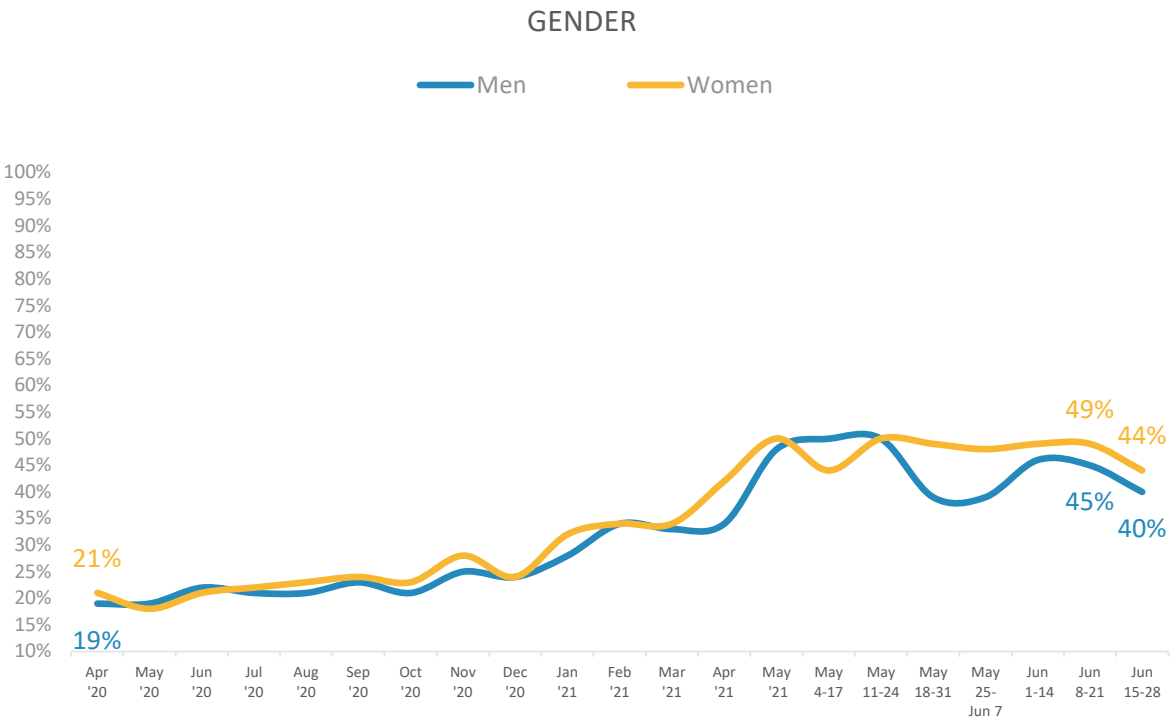
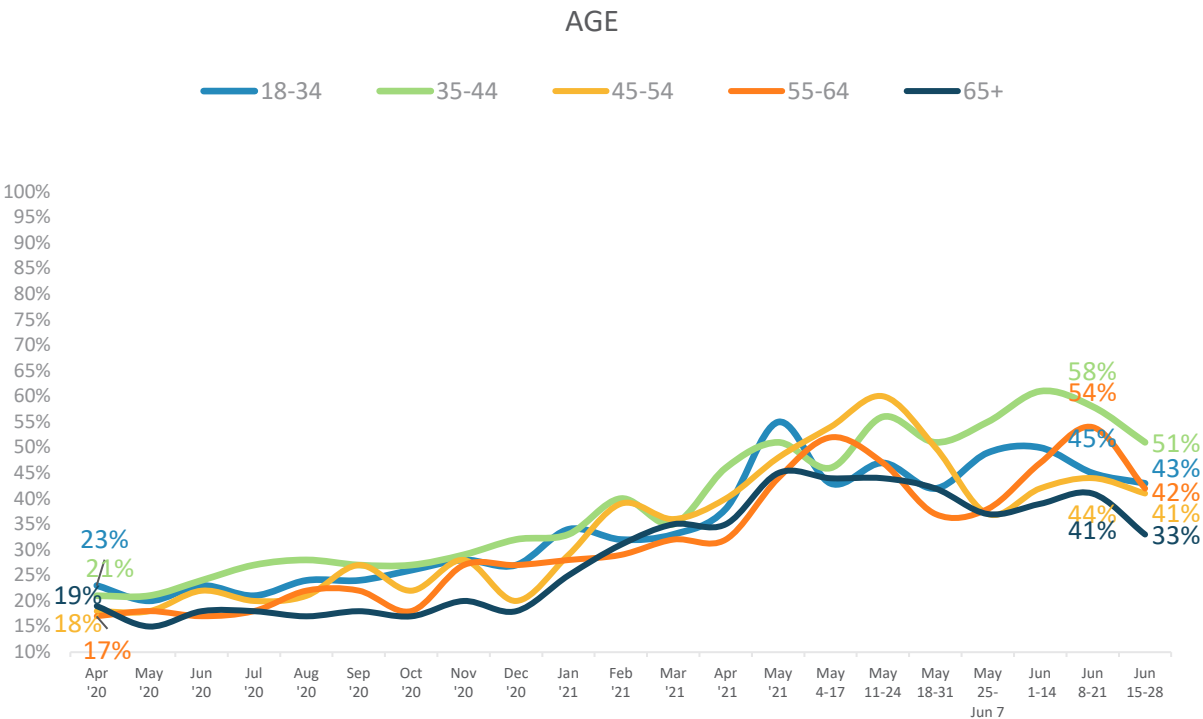


These graphs are based on 4 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

Mirroring ‘right track’ trends, ‘wrong track’ scores declined by varying degrees among all age groups. Declines were also measured among both men and women.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

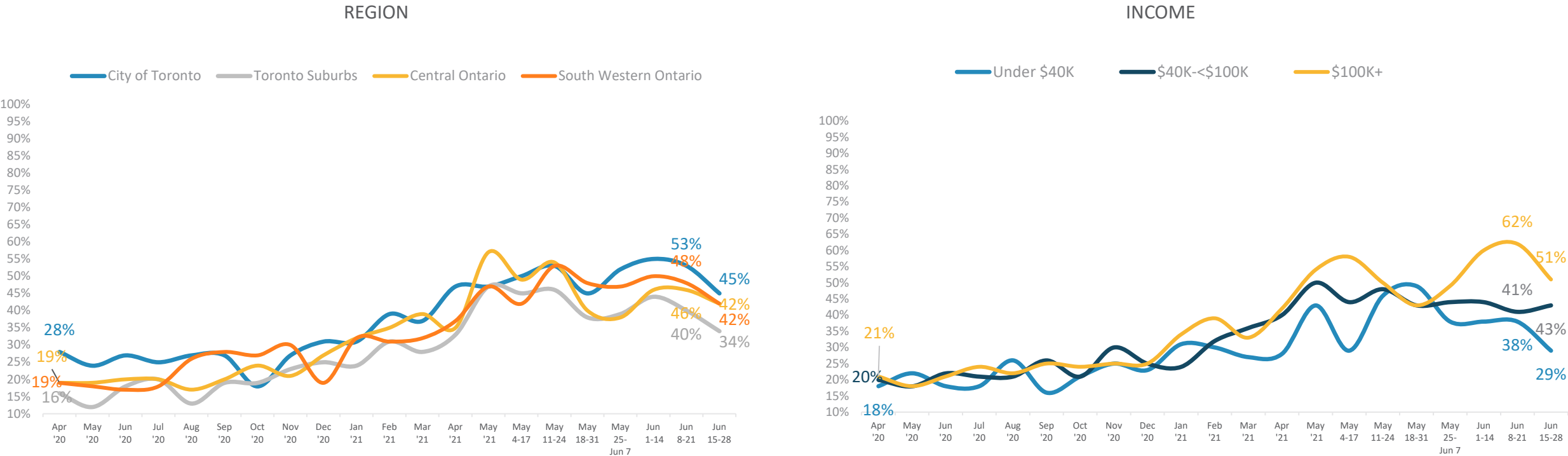


These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

‘Wrong track’ scores continue to be lowest in the Toronto suburbs, while the other three regions are close to parity. And, while ‘wrong track’ scores remain highest among those making \$100k+ there was a decline among this segment as well as among Ontarians making <\$40k.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll



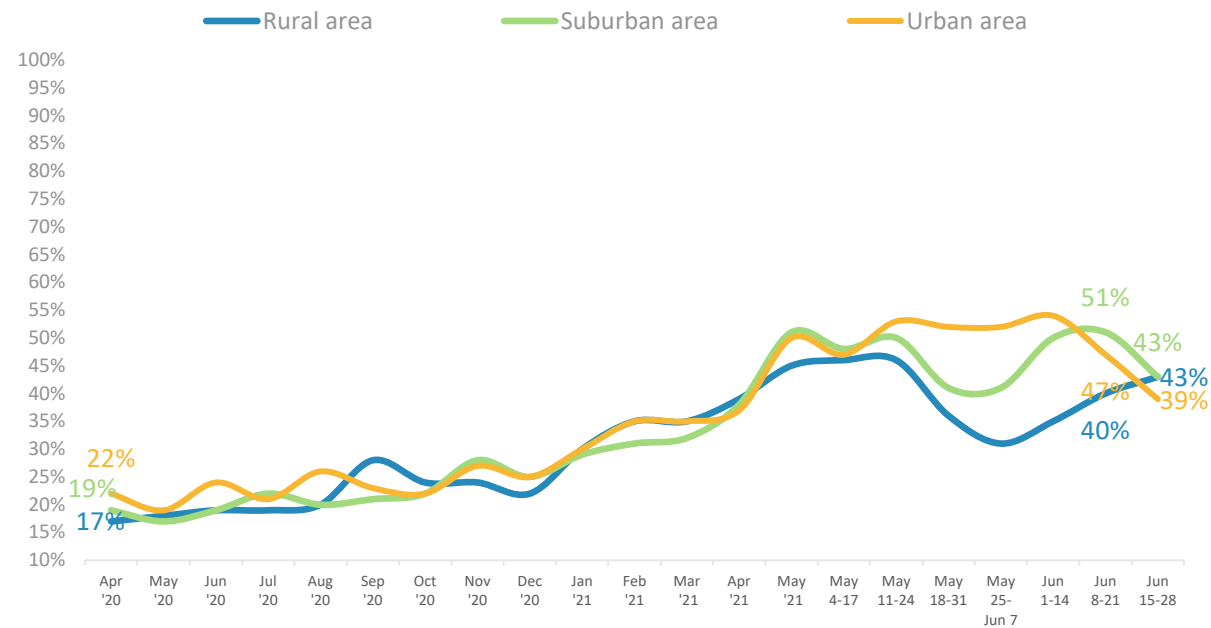
These graphs are based on 5 day roll in order to boost the sample sizes.

Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

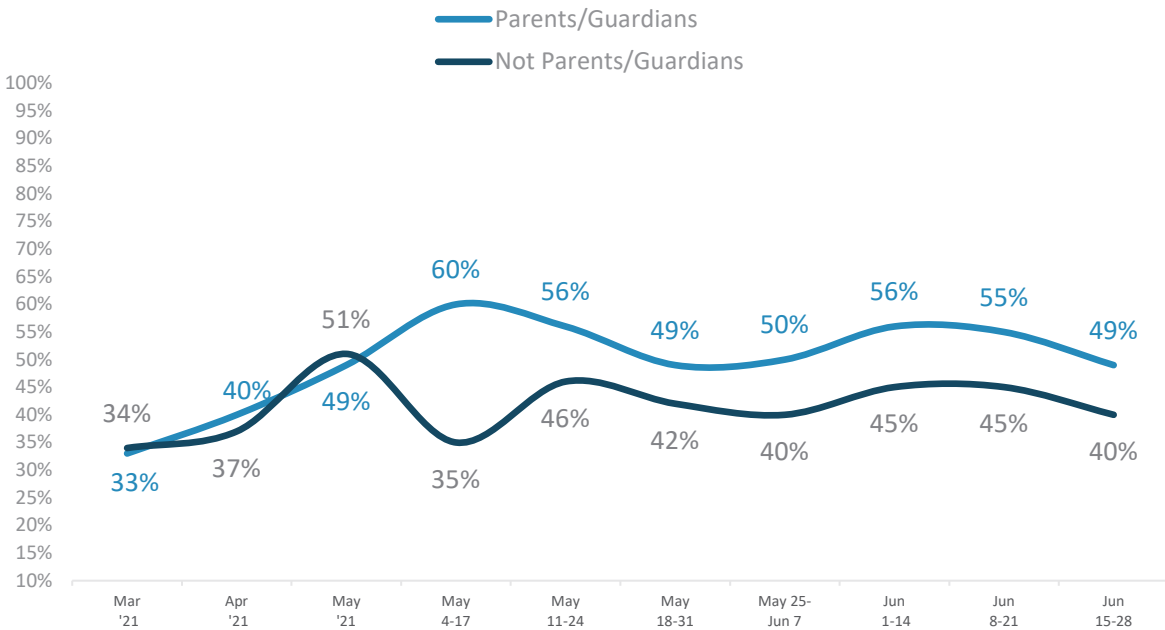
With declines the previous two weeks, ‘wrong track’ scores are now lowest in urban areas. Suburban and rural areas are presently at par.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

RURAL/URBAN/SUBURBAN



PARENTS/GUARDIAN JK-G12 VS NOT PARENTS/GUARDIANS

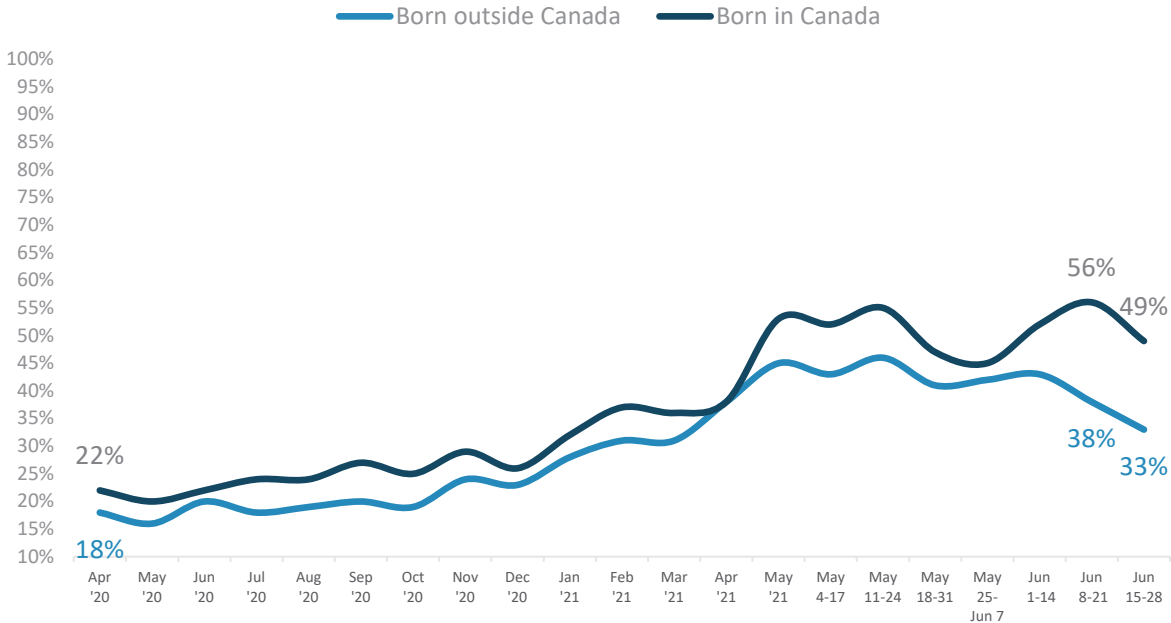


Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

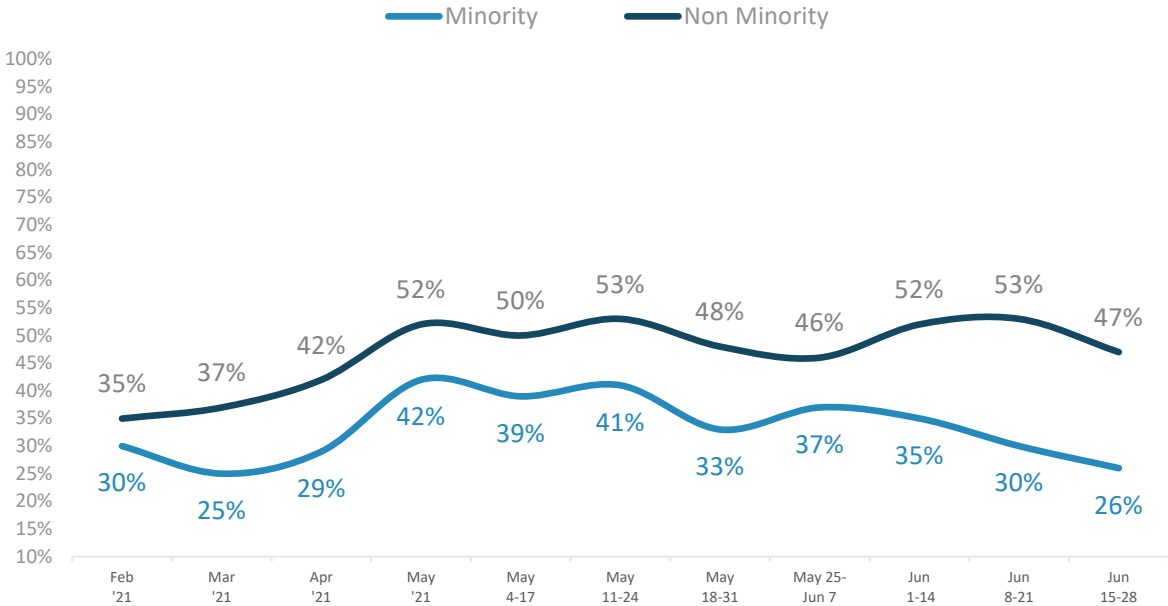
There were declines in ‘**wrong track**’ scores among those born in and outside of Canada as well as among non-minorities and minorities.

Wrong Track Scores – 12-Day Roll

BORN OUTSIDE/WITHIN CANADA



MINORITY VS NON MINORITY



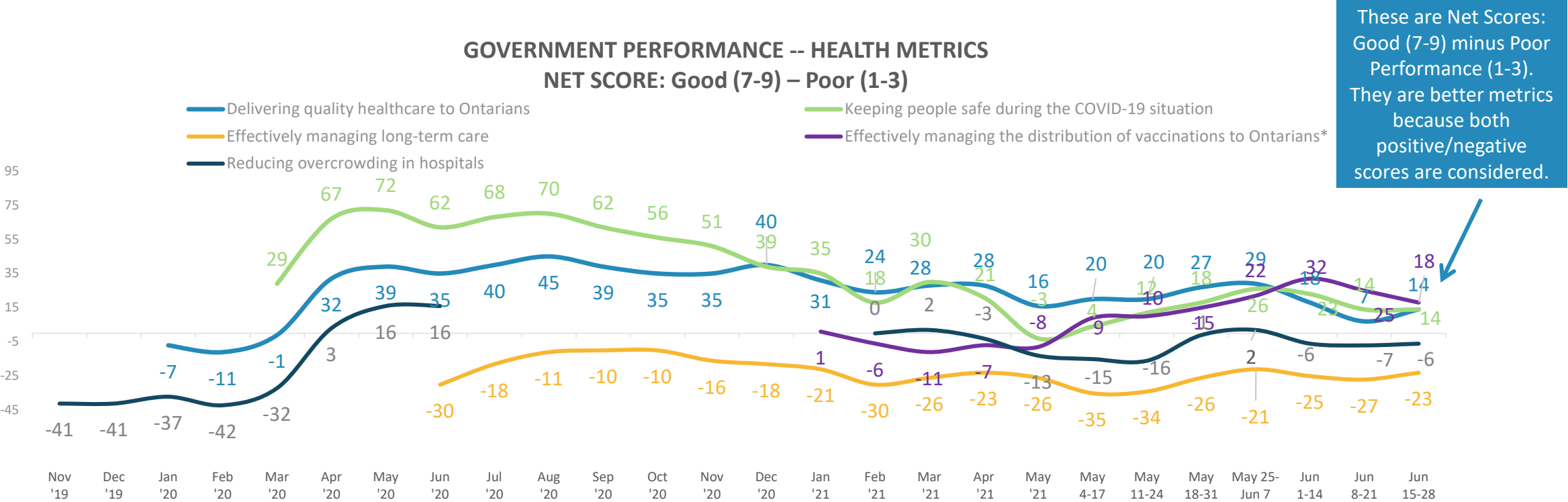
Q2. Overall, do you feel that the Ontario provincial government is on the right track or the wrong track, in terms of how it is governing the province?
Base: Total sample

PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC



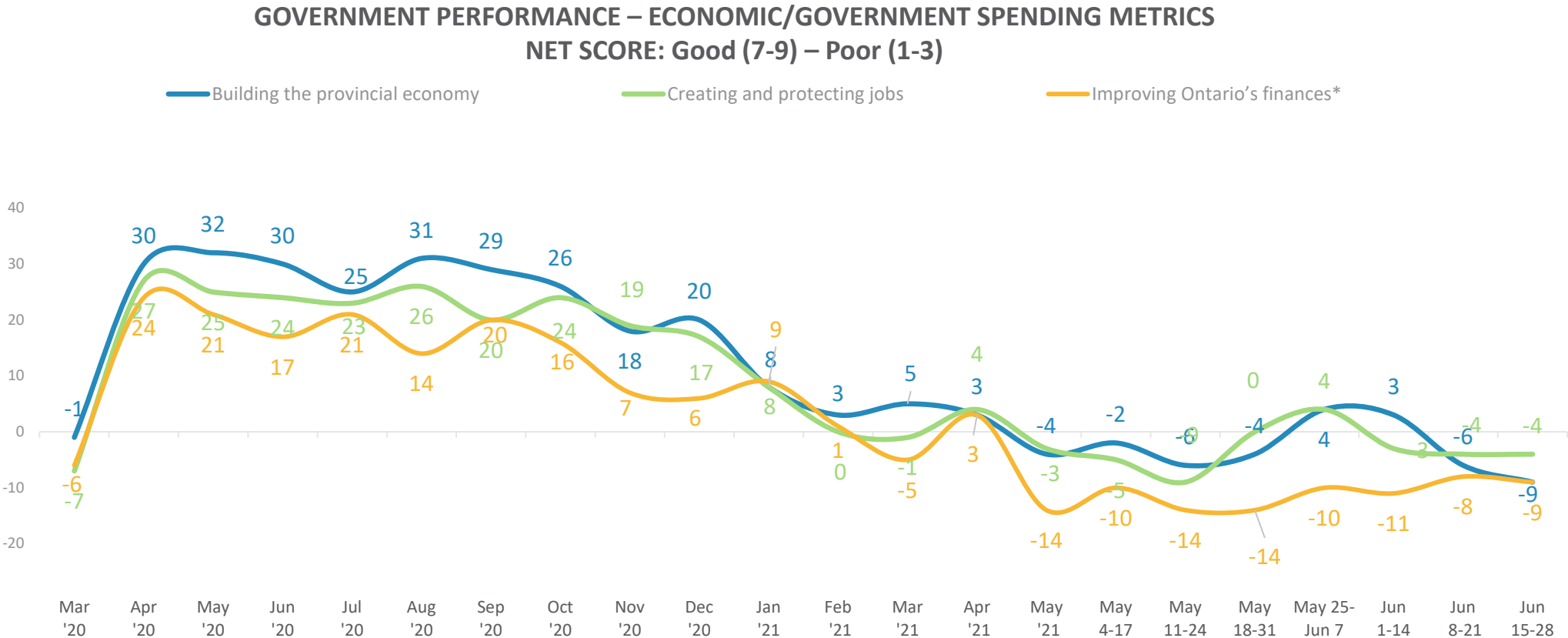
After trending up for six weeks, positive ratings on ‘effectively managing vaccinations’ declined for the second straight week – although it remains the highest rated health metric. Of note, ‘delivering quality healthcare to Ontarians’ increased after two weeks of declines.

- Results for ‘keeping people safe during the COVID-19 situation’ remained unchanged.



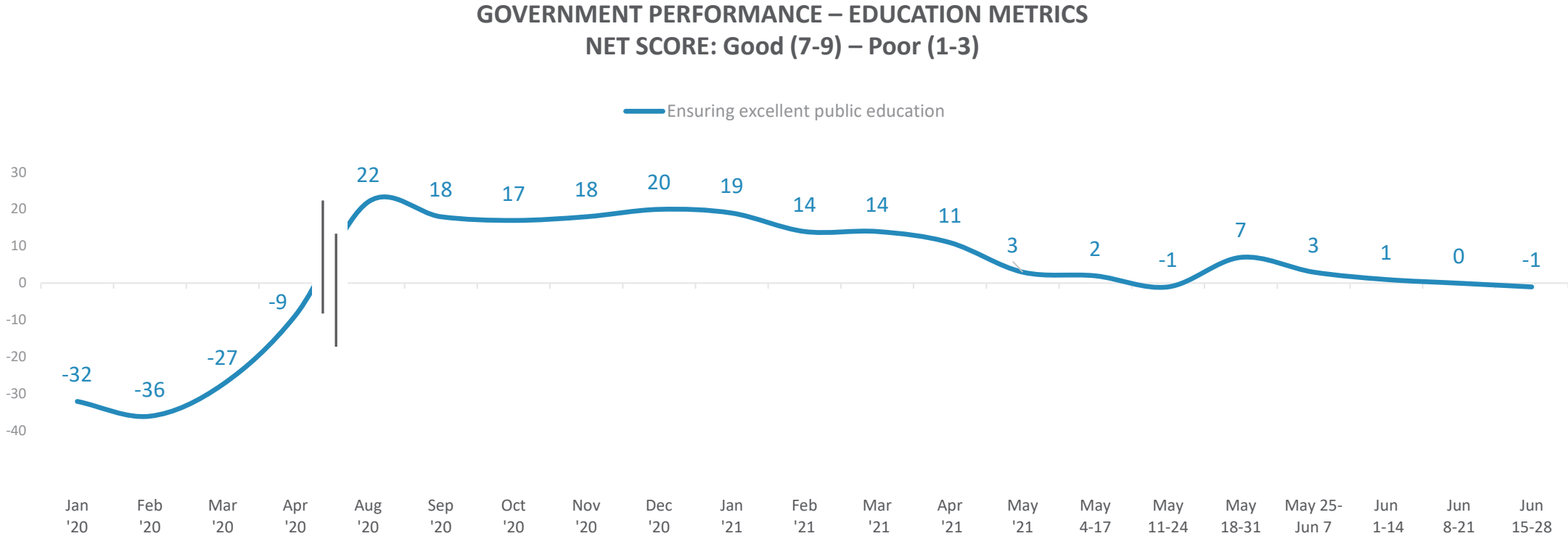
Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
*Former phrasing: “Effectively managing the vaccinations of Ontarians”
Bases vary

Rating of government performance for ‘building the provincial economy’ declined again this week and all three economic/government spending metrics remain in negative territory.



Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
*Former phrasing: “Improve Ontario’s finances”
Bases vary

‘Ensuring excellent public education’ continued a slow decline and is now in negative territory.



Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
Bases vary

SUPPORT FOR THE GRADUAL RE-OPENING OF THE ECONOMY



Increases in support for the government’s plan for a gradual 3-stage approach to reopening the Ontario economy were reversed this week, while intensity of support increased with 36% ‘very’ supportive. However, support remains below that measured a year ago.

	May '20
n=	1259
	%
TOTAL SUPPORT	87
Strongly support	42
Somewhat support	45
Somewhat oppose	5
Strongly oppose	4
TOTAL OPPOSE	9

	May 25-31	Jun 1-7	Jun 8-14	Jun 15-21	Jun 22-28
n=	varies				
	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL SUPPORT	78	69	80	88	81
Very supportive	25	26	27	32	36
Somewhat supportive	53	43	53	57	45
Somewhat opposed	11	11	11	6	5
Strongly opposed	10	18	7	6	13
TOTAL OPPOSE	21	29	18	12	19

QCV-47b. The provincial government announced a gradual re-opening plan which involves a 3-stage approach, each lasting 2 to 4 weeks long and the length of each stage being determined by health indicators such as vaccine rollout, hospitalization incidences and severity of COVID 19 in the province. Overall do you support or oppose this overall approach?

QCV-47. This plan involves a 3 stage approach, each lasting 2 to 4 weeks long and the length of each stage being determined by medical indicators of the incidence and severity of COVID 19 in the province. Overall do you support or oppose this overall approach?

Base: Total sample

There was a slight uptick this week in the proportion of Ontarians who believe the government should move into the second stage of the re-opening immediately or in the end June/early July (72%).

	Jun 15-21	Jun 22-28
n=	300	300
	%	%
Immediately	22	26
By the end of June	28	27
Early July	19	19
End of July	15	15
In a few months	10	9
Don't know/not sure	6	4

Jobs training and skills development - followed by tax cuts, infrastructure spending, and innovation and technology investment - are the top items in Ontario jobs and recovery approach.

	Jun 8-14	Jun 15-21	Jun 22-28
n=	300	300	300
	%	%	%
Jobs training and skills development	56	49	52
Reduce personal taxes	28	31	32
Infrastructure investment	30	30	31
Innovation and technology investment	30	28	26
Help hard-hit industries	25	25	19
Manufacturing incentives	11	15	17
Reduce business taxes	14	14	17
Don't know/Refuse	3	4	3

Agreement that the government’s gradual and careful reopening has been the right approach compared to the process in the United States remained stable at 70%. However, results remain lower than those measured in the summer of 2020 especially in terms of intensity of agreement.

Ontario’s gradual and careful re-opening has been the right approach compared to the more rapid opening process in the United States.

	Jul '20	Aug '20
n=	varies	
	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	92	90
Strongly agree	74	71
Somewhat agree	18	19
Neither agree nor disagree	2	3
Somewhat disagree	3	2
Strongly disagree	3	3
TOTAL DISAGREE	5	5

Ontario’s gradual and careful re-opening has been the right approach compared to the more rapid opening process in many US states

May 25-31	Jun 1-7	Jun 8-14	Jun 15-21	Jun 22-28
varies				
%	%	%	%	%
74	67	78	70	70
33	39	42	37	43
40	28	36	34	27
5	3	4	4	4
9	12	7	14	11
11	15	6	9	14
20	26	13	23	25

QCV-8B. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about the effects of COVID-19. The first is ...
Base: Total sample, bases vary

Ontarians are more inclined to support the reopening of the Canadian-US border to non-essential travel at this point compared to last summer and fall, and support has continued to edge upward. Almost six-in-ten (58%) now support the re-opening.

To what extent do you support or oppose the opening up of the Canadian border to non-essential US visitors?

	Jul'20	Oct'20
n=	836	579
	%	%
TOTAL SUPPORT	15	13
Strongly support	7	8
Somewhat support	8	5
Neither support nor oppose	4	3
Somewhat oppose	12	11
Strongly oppose	68	71
TOTAL OPPOSE	80	82

Do you support or oppose the re-opening of the Canadian-US border to non-essential travel?

Jun 8-14	Jun 15-21	Jun 22-28
varies		
%	%	%
51	56	58
22	30	27
28	26	31
-	-	-
25	21	21
23	19	20
48	41	41

QER-2. Do you support or oppose the re-opening of the Canadian-US border to non-essential travel?
QCV-100B2. To what extent do you support or oppose the opening up of the Canadian border to non-essential US visitors?
Base: Total sample

Most Ontarians support requiring a proof of full vaccination (84%) or proof of a recent negative COVID-19 test (78%) should the border with the US re-open for non-essential travel.

% VERY/SOMEWHAT SUPPORTIVE	Jun 15-21	Jun 22-28
n=	300	300
	%	%
Proof of full vaccination	83	84
Proof of a recent negative COVID-19 test	78	78
Opening the border with no COVID-19 restrictions on who can enter	24	22

QER-5. Thinking now about reopening the border with the USA and the possibility that infections could increase if the border is opened for non-essential travel, how supportive are you of each of the following actions, should the Ontario government require these before agreeing to allow the border to fully reopen.

Base: Total sample

CHANGE IN COVID-19 CASES IF BORDER WITH US RE-OPENED FOR NON-ESSENTIAL TRAVEL

Ontarians are split about the impact of re-opening the border with the US to non-essential travel: 48% think there would be little or no impact in the number of COVID-19 cases in the province, while 48% think there would be a significant increase in infections.

	Jun 15-21	Jun 22-28
n=	300	300
	%	%
There would be a significant increase in COVID -19 cases in the province	42	48
There would be little or no impact in the number of COVID-19 cases in the province	54	48
Don't know/not sure	4	4

QER-4. If the border with the US were to be reopened to non-essential travel, which of the following do you imagine is most likely to happen?
Base: Total sample

ANTICIPATED SPENDING PLANS OF ONTARIANS

As the vaccine rollout picks up and the economy starts to re-open, Ontarians appear to be wanting to spend money. Almost four-in-ten (37%) say they will be spending more money this year. This is much higher than a year ago when only 15% indicated that they wished to spend more.

- Compared to previous results, a larger proportion of Ontarians anticipate spending more money and fewer indicate they will be spending less than they normally would.

Since the time of the closing of parts of the economy in response to COVID – 19, have you been		And as the economy starts to reopen again do you anticipate that, for this time of year, you will be ...		And Ontario shifts into Phase 3 of the re-opening of the economy, do you anticipate that, for this time of year, you will be ...		With over 70% of Ontario adults vaccinated with their first dose and the number of COVID-19 infections trending downward, do you anticipate that, for this time of year, you will be ...			
	Jun'20	Jun'20	Aug '20	Sep '20			Jun 8-14	Jun 15-21	Jun 22-28
n=	1735	1735	889	1181		n=	varies		
	%	%	%	%			%	%	%
Spending more than you would normally	12	15	16	16		Spending more money then you did at this time last year	33	33	37
Spending about as much as you would normally	24	49	34	39		Spending about the same amount of money as you did at this time last year	48	48	46
Spending less than you would normally	64	36	48	43		Spending less money then you did at this time last year	19	17	16

QER-3. With over 70% of Ontario adults vaccinated with their first dose and the number of COVID-19 infections trending downward, do you anticipate that, for this time of year, you will be ...

Base: Total sample

QCV-80. Since the time of the closing of parts of the economy in response to COVID – 19, have you been

QCV-81. And as the economy starts to reopen again do you anticipate that, for this time of year, you will be ...

Base: Total sample

QCV111. And Ontario shifts into Phase 3 of the re-opening of the economy, do you anticipate that, for this time of year, you will be ...

Base: Total sample

CONFIDENTIAL

HAVING AN ECONOMIC PLAN FOR RECOVERY



There has been movement this week with 53% of Ontarians now indicating they think the government’s focus in the coming months should be on economic issues and 39% saying health-related issues - after being close to parity for several weeks.

	May 11-24	May 18-31	May 25-Jun 7	Jun 1-14	Jun 8-21	Jun 15-28
n=	varies					
	%	%	%	%	%	%
It should focus on health-related issues surrounding COVID-19, including minimizing increases in the number of cases and accelerating the vaccine rollout.	50	50	44	47	48	39
It should focus on economic issues surrounding COVID-19, including ensuring the economy recovers as quickly as possible and helping prevent more businesses from closing.	40	39	45	45	45	53
Both a health and an economic focus are equally important.	9	10	9	7	6	8

Ontarians continue to want to hear more about the government’s plans for economic recovery, with over eight-in-ten (85%) agreeing with this.

*It is essential that Ontario
have a jobs and recovery plan
in response to COVID-19*

	Jun '20
n=	varies
	%
TOTAL AGREE	95
Strongly agree	73
Somewhat agree	22
Neither agree nor disagree	2
Somewhat disagree	2
Strongly disagree	1
TOTAL DISAGREE	3

*I want to hear more about the Ontario government’s plans
for economic recovery*

May 18-24	May 25-31	Jun 1-7	Jun 8-14	Jun 15-21	Jun 22-28
varies					
%	%	%	%	%	%
80	84	83	76	82	85
55	50	56	49	58	60
25	34	27	27	24	25
7	10	3	6	5	4
5	3	9	9	3	5
6	2	4	8	7	5
11	5	13	17	10	11

QCV-14. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
QCV-8B. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about the effects of COVID-19. The first is ...
Base: Total sample

TIME FOR THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT TO START FOCUSING ON ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Eight-in-ten (82%) Ontarians also continue to agree that it’s time for the Ontario government to start focusing more attention on economic recovery. This compares to 36% a year ago.

It is time for the government to put more focus on getting the economy moving and less on stopping the spread of COVID-19

	Jun '20	Jul '20
n=	varies	
	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	36	35
Strongly agree	14	15
Somewhat agree	21	20
Neither agree nor disagree	7	7
Somewhat disagree	24	25
Strongly disagree	32	31
TOTAL DISAGREE	56	56

It’s time for the Ontario government to start focusing more attention on economic recovery

May 18-24	May 25-31	Jun 1-7	Jun 8-14	Jun 15-21	Jun 22-28
varies					
%	%	%	%	%	%
70	72	84	76	82	82
39	32	56	36	52	50
31	41	28	39	30	33
4	6	8	7	6	4
15	15	5	11	10	8
10	5	3	5	2	4
25	20	8	16	12	12

QCV-14. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
QCV-8B. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about the effects of COVID-19. The first is ...
Base: Total sample

However, Ontarians continue to be uncertain whether the government has a plan for economic recovery from the impact of COVID-19 shutdowns, with half (49%) agreeing that the government doesn’t have a plan.

I don’t think the Ontario government has a plan for the economic recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 shutdowns

	May 18-24	May 25-31	Jun 1-7	Jun 8-14	Jun 15-21	Jun 22-28
n=	varies					
	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	59	49	56	44	53	49
Strongly agree	28	19	22	17	19	22
Somewhat agree	32	30	34	26	34	27
Neither agree nor disagree	10	12	12	12	7	15
Somewhat disagree	19	19	19	25	24	23
Strongly disagree	10	15	9	15	14	10
TOTAL DISAGREE	29	34	29	40	38	33

QCV-14. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Base: Total sample

Most Ontarians continue to think it will take quite a while for the economy to recover from the impact of COVID-19, although the proportion has been fluctuating.

I worry that the longer it takes to open up the economy the more severely will be the damage to the economy

	Jun '20
n=	varies
	%
TOTAL AGREE	79
Strongly agree	46
Somewhat agree	33
Neither agree nor disagree	5
Somewhat disagree	11
Strongly disagree	5
TOTAL DISAGREE	16

I think it will take quite a while for the economy to recover from the impact of COVID-19

May 18-24	May 25-31	Jun 1-7	Jun 8-14	Jun 15-21	Jun 22-28
varies					
%	%	%	%	%	%
91	87	94	90	74	84
66	65	64	60	51	63
25	22	30	30	23	22
1	3	1	2	5	4
3	9	3	5	14	7
5	-	2	2	4	3
8	9	5	8	18	10

QCV-14. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
 QCV-8B. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about the effects of COVID-19. The first is ...
 Base: Total sample

PERCEPTIONS OF THE
GOVERNMENT'S PERFORMANCE
IN HANDLING
SECOND/THIRD/FOURTH WAVE OF COVID-19



MOST RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INCREASE IN INFECTION CASES

Ontarians tend to believe that if there were a fourth wave of the pandemic in Ontario, allowing air travel from possible COVID variants hotspots (37%) would be the most responsible for the increase in infections. The emergence of a variety of COVID variants (35%) is the next most cited reason.

Which one of the following do you believe is the most responsible for the recent increase of infection cases and leading to a Wave 3 of COVID -19?

	May 4-10	May 11-17	May 18-24	May 25-31	Jun 1-7	Jun 8-14
n=	300	300	300	300	300	300
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Allowing air travel from possible COVID variants hotspots	29	36	28	28	32	35
The emergence of a variety of COVID variants	16	11	20	18	18	15
Infections introduced into Ontario by international travellers by land	13	15	14	14	15	11
Not restricting social contact quickly enough/(previous phrasing) The timing of restrictions limiting social contact	23	21	19	20	18	19
Infections introduced into Ontario by interprovincial travelers	6	6	6	4	4	7
All of these	4	4	6	7	6	4
Don't know/not sure	9	8	7	10	7	9

If there were a 4th wave of the pandemic in Ontario, which one of the following do you believe would be most responsible for the increase in infections?

Jun 15-21	Jun 22-28
300	300
%	%
37	37
27	35
10	11
13	8
3	1
4	3
6	5

LEVEL OF CONCERN ABOUT 4TH WAVE OF THE PANDEMIC

There is concern about the possibility of a fourth wave, with 68% of Ontarians saying they are concerned. The intensity of concern also increased this week.

	Jun 15-21	Jun 22-28
n=	300	250
	%	%
TOTAL CONCERNED	60	68
Very concerned	17	26
Somewhat concerned	43	43
Not too concerned	25	19
Not at all concerned	14	12
TOTAL NOT CONCERNED	39	31

However, three-quarters (75%) of Ontarians feel the Ontario government is prepared to handle a fourth wave of infections if a COVID-19 variant spreads rapidly. Results are now on par with the fall of last year regarding preparation for a second wave of infections.

Considering the increasing rate of infection, how prepared or not do you feel the government of Ontario is to handle a second wave of infections this fall? Would you say the Ontario government is...

	Oct '20	Nov '20
n=	621	1052
	%	%
TOTAL PREPARED	76	74
Very prepared	15	17
Somewhat prepared	62	57
Not very prepared/Not too prepared	15	16
Not at all prepared	7	8
TOTAL NOT PREPARED	21	24

How prepared or not do you feel the government of Ontario is to handle a 'fourth' wave of infections if a COVID-19 variant spreads rapidly? Would you say the Ontario government is . .

Jun 15-21	Jun 22-28
300	300
%	%
66	75
19	17
48	58
20	16
11	9
32	25

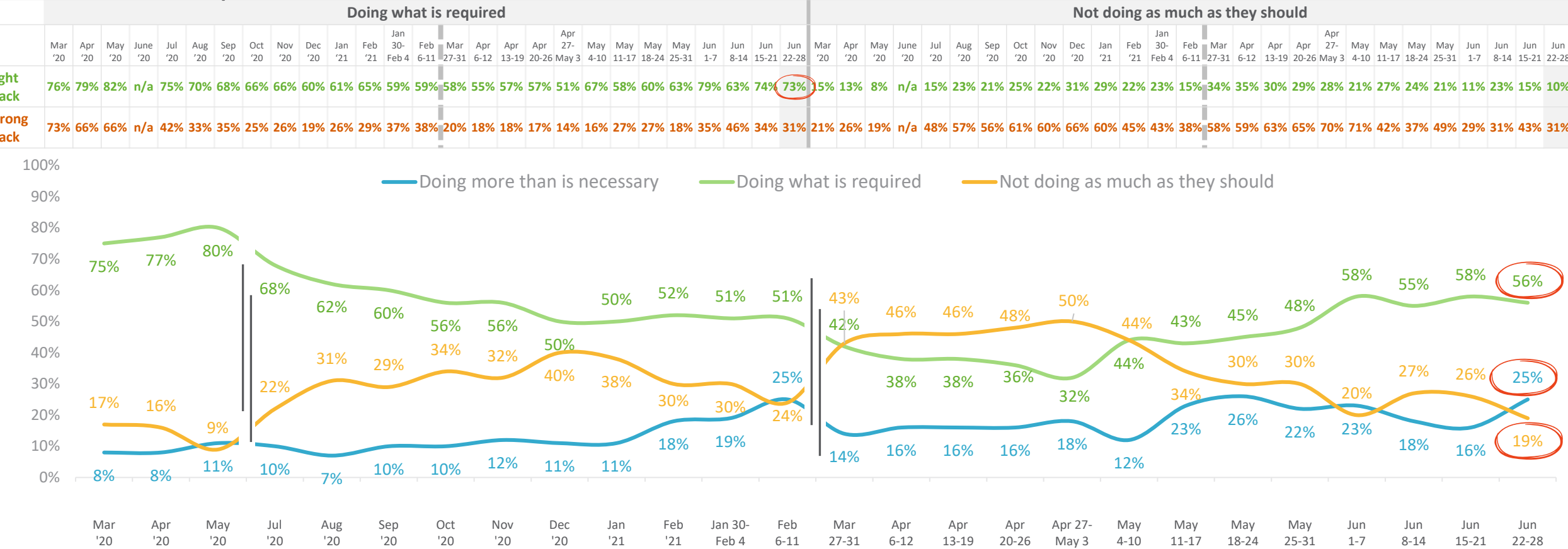
QCV-211. How prepared or not do you feel the government of Ontario is to handle a 'fourth' wave of infections if a COVID-19 variant spreads rapidly? Would you say the Ontario government is . .
QCV-127. Considering the increasing rate of infection, how prepared or not do you feel the government of Ontario is to handle a second wave of infections this fall? Would you say the Ontario government is...
Base: Total sample

VIEWS ON THE
PROVINCIAL SHUTDOWN
PRIOR TO THE
GOVERNMENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT



ONTARIO GOVERNMENT COVID-19 MEASURES

The majority (56%) continue to believe the government is ‘doing what is required’ to reduce the spread of the virus. However, there has been an increase to one-quarter (25%) of Ontarians who think the government is ‘doing more than is necessary’.



QCV-6. Thinking about the measures that the Government of Ontario has already taken to limit the spread of the virus at this time would you say they are ... (previous phrasing) Thinking about the measures that the Government of Ontario has already taken to limit the spread of the virus, including declaring a second state of emergency and imposing a stay at home order until the middle of February, at this time would you say they are ... (previous phrasing) Thinking about the measures that the Government of Ontario has already taken to limit the spread of the virus, including declaring a second state of emergency and a stronger stay at home order until the middle of February, at this time would you say they are ... (previous phrasing) Thinking about the measures that the Government of Ontario has already taken to limit the spread of the virus, including advising the public and businesses about prevention measures, shutting down the province for several weeks, and keeping kids out of school, at this time would you say they are ... (previous phrasing) Thinking about the measures that the Government of Ontario has already taken to limit the spread of the virus, including advising the public and businesses about prevention measures, gradually reopening the province, and planning for the return to school in the fall, at this time would you say they are ... (previous phrasing) Thinking about the measures that the Government of Ontario has already taken to limit the spread of the virus, including issuing a Declaration of Emergency, ordering non-essential businesses to close, advising the public and businesses about prevention measures and closing publicly funded schools, at this time would you say they are ... (READ LIST. RANDOMIZE ACCEPT ONE RESPONSE ONLY.) (previous phrasing) Thinking about the measures that the Government of Ontario has already taken to limit the spread of the virus, including advising the public and businesses about prevention measures and closing publicly funded schools, at this time would you say they are ...

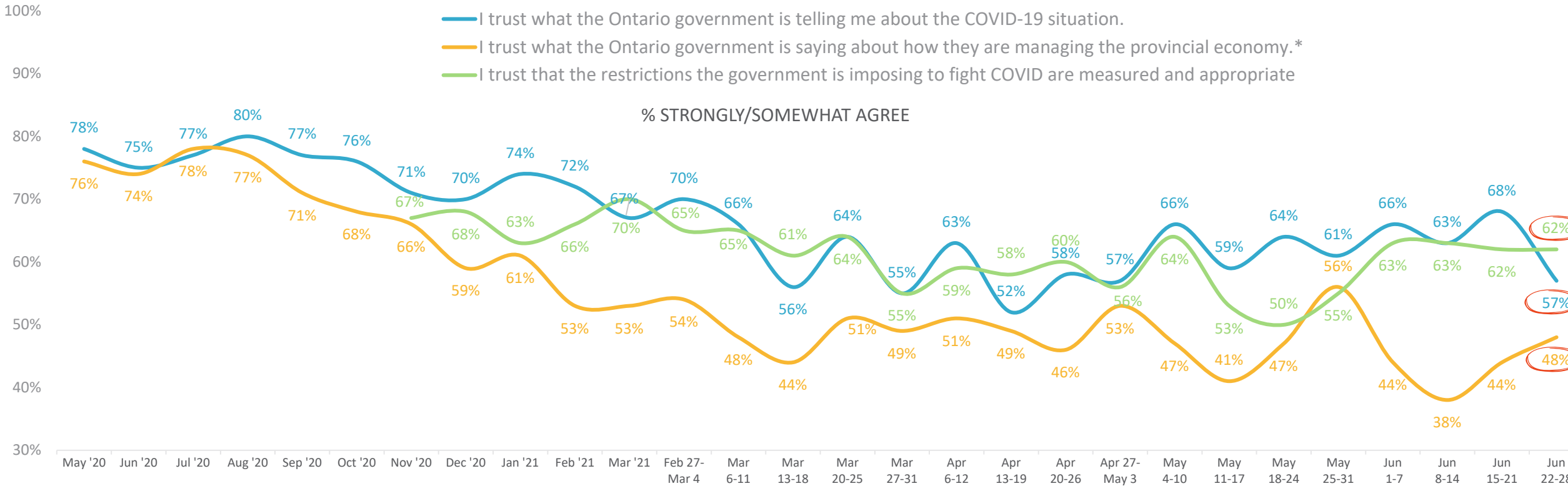
CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT COVID-19 MESSAGING



TRUST IN THE GOVERNMENT’S COMMUNICATIONS ABOUT COVID-19

‘How they are managing the provincial economy’ increased again this week, however trust remains lower than that measured for the other government communications.

- Trust regarding what the government is ‘telling me about the COVID-19 situation’ continues to fluctuate while ‘the restrictions the government is imposing to fight COVID are measured and appropriate’ remained stable.



QCV-8B. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about the effects of COVID-19. The first is ...
* Previous phrasing: I trust what the Ontario government is saying about how they are re-opening the provincial economy. /I trust what the Ontario government is saying about how they plan to re-open the provincial economy
Base: Total sample, base varies

FATIGUE WITH PUBLIC HEALTH GUIDELINES



LEVEL OF FATIGUE WITH COVID-19 MITIGATION MEASURES

About half (47%) of Ontarians report they are getting very tired of all the COVID-19 control measures such as face coverings and social distancing.

I am getting very tired of all the COVID-19 control measures, such as mask wearing and social distancing

	Aug 18-20	Aug 22-27	Sep 12-17	Sep 19-24	Sep 26- Oct 1	Oct 3-8	Oct 10-15	Oct 17-22	Oct 24-29	Oct 31- Nov 5	Nov 7-12	Nov 14-19	Nov 21-26	Mar 27-31	Apr 6-12	Apr 13-19	Apr 20-26	Apr 27- May 3	May 4-10	May 11-17	May 18-24	May 25-31	Jun 1-7	Jun 8-14	Jun 15-21	Jun 22-28
n=	varies																									
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	37	26	30	25	18	38	24	33	38	36	33	38	38	43	57	53	39	46	42	44	41	41	56	39	55	47
Strongly agree	21	16	15	16	6	23	12	14	20	24	23	28	24	24	36	28	17	29	24	29	23	24	31	21	24	30
Somewhat agree	16	10	15	9	12	15	11	19	17	12	11	11	15	19	22	24	22	17	18	16	18	17	25	18	31	18
Neither agree nor disagree	4	3	5	5	6	4	8	7	8	4	4	2	1	5	7	6	5	7	7	10	10	6	6	7	11	13
Somewhat disagree	15	21	21	19	18	14	15	13	14	19	16	12	8	15	14	14	17	16	19	16	22	19	18	22	8	14
Strongly disagree	44	49	44	50	58	41	53	46	41	40	46	48	52	36	22	26	38	30	30	29	27	31	18	32	25	25
TOTAL DISAGREE	59	70	65	69	76	56	68	59	54	59	62	59	59	50	36	40	55	46	50	45	49	50	37	54	33	39

QCV-8B. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about the effects of COVID-19. The first is ...

Base: Total sample, base varies

COVID-19 INFECTIONS



Agreement that we are over the worst of COVID-19 increased again this week with three-quarters (75%) of Ontarians now believing this.

I believe that we are over the worst of COVID-19

	May 18-24	May 25-31	Jun 1-7	Jun 8-14	Jun 15-21	Jun 22-28
n=	varies					
	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	53	60	70	68	71	75
Strongly agree	22	25	30	26	32	31
Somewhat agree	31	35	40	42	39	44
Neither agree nor disagree	7	8	8	7	8	7
Somewhat disagree	22	16	12	19	8	10
Strongly disagree	14	12	8	4	11	7
TOTAL DISAGREE	36	28	20	22	19	17

QCV-14. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Base: Total sample

Ontarians also feel that the threat of contracting the virus has declined. Eight-in-ten Ontarians continue to believe the threat of contracting COVID-19 is much less now compared to a month ago – up from 26% at the beginning of May.

% STRONGLY/ SOMEWHAT AGREE	Jun '20	Jul '20	Aug '20	Sep '20	Oct '20	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28	Jan 30-Feb 4	Feb 6-11	Feb 13-18	Feb 20-25	Feb 27-Mar 4	Mar 6-11	Mar 13-18	Mar 20-25	Mar 27-31	Apr 6-12	Apr 13-19	Apr 20-26	Apr 27-May 3	May 4-10	May 11-17	May 18-24	May 25-31	Jun 1-7	Jun 8-14	Jun 15-21	Jun 22-28
n=	varies																														
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
I think the threat of contracting COVID-19 is much less now than it was a month ago	58	61	64	54	25	21	17	18	22	22	35	35	44	41	40	41	32	39	41	21	18	19	26	29	49	64	69	77	80	77	79

QCV-14. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
*Original phrasing: I see people everyday not following the social distancing guidelines
Base: Total sample

VACCINE



CONFIDENCE THE END OF COVID-19 IS NEAR WITH THE VACCINE READY

There continues to be confidence that the end of COVID-19 is nearer now that vaccines are being administered, with 77% agreeing with this.

I am confident the end of COVID-19 is near now that it appears a vaccine is nearly ready

	Nov 21-26	Nov 28-Dec 3	Dec 5-10
n=	varies		
	%	%	%
TOTAL AGREE	35	38	38
Strongly agree	12	15	14
Somewhat agree	23	24	24
Neither agree nor disagree	10	10	12
Somewhat disagree	18	20	22
Strongly disagree	32	30	25
TOTAL DISAGREE	50	50	47

*I am confident the end of COVID-19 is nearer now that vaccines are being administered**

Dec 12-17	Dec 19-23	Dec 29- Jan 7	Jan 9-14	Jan 16-21	Jan 23-28	Jan 30- Feb 4	Feb 6-11	Feb 13-18	Feb 20-25	Feb 27- Mar 4	Mar 6-11	Mar 13-18	Mar 20-25	Mar 27-31	Apr 6-12	Apr 13-19	Apr 20-26	Apr 27- May 3	May 4-10	May 11-17	May 18-24	May 25-31	Jun 1-7	Jun 8-14	Jun 15-21	Jun 22-28	
varies																											
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
53	51	48	52	53	41	48	55	48	42	52	63	54	58	62	68	55	52	48	66	77	70	79	70	66	77	77	
19	10	17	19	24	14	14	17	14	15	22	24	24	20	8	45	10	19	20	25	32	35	36	39	25	33	33	
34	41	30	33	29	27	34	38	34	27	30	38	30	37	54	22	45	34	28	41	46	35	43	31	41	44	44	
5	9	6	4	7	10	8	4	9	5	6	8	7	7	4	11	5	10	6	10	5	4	3	7	10	6	3	
19	20	20	22	20	21	19	18	14	19	20	15	17	16	26	17	12	22	22	7	9	13	10	13	17	11	11	
21	20	26	21	20	27	24	19	28	32	19	12	20	19	8	5	26	16	22	16	8	10	8	10	6	5	8	
40	40	45	44	39	48	42	38	41	51	39	27	37	36	34	22	38	37	44	22	17	22	18	22	23	16	20	

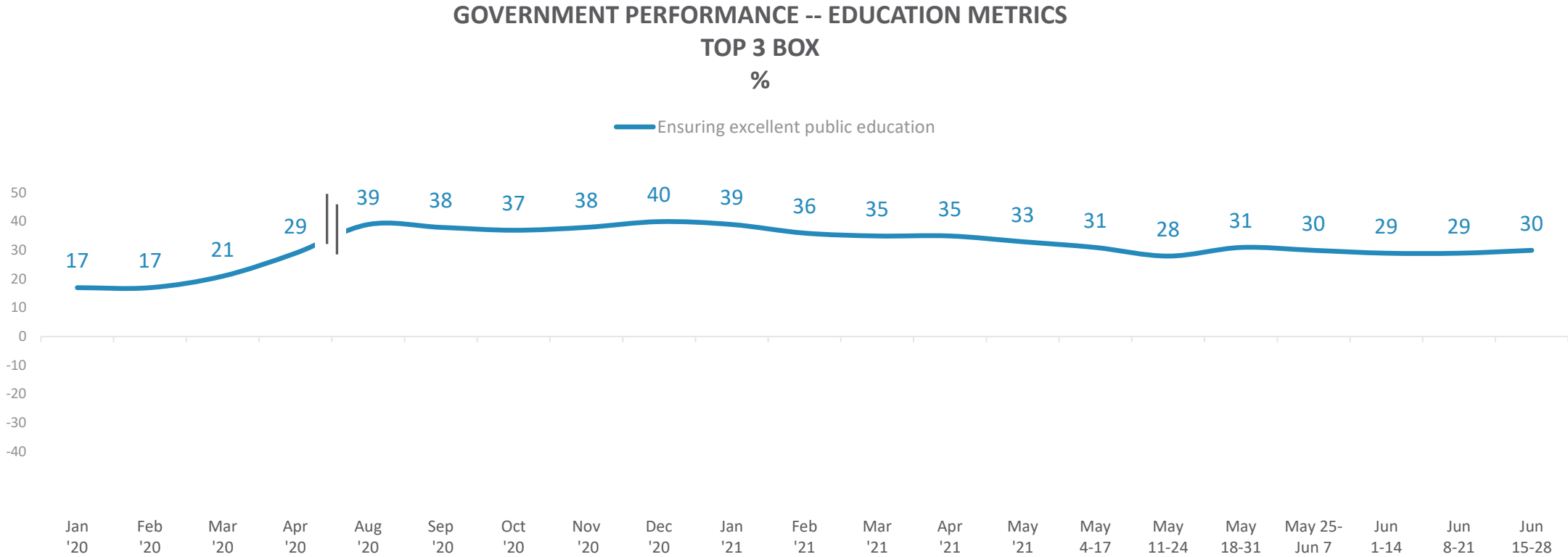
QCV-8B. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about the effects of COVID-19. The first is ...
*Previous phrasing: *I am confident the end of COVID-19 is nearer now that vaccines are now being administered*
*Previous phrasing: *I am confident the end of COVID-19 is nearer now that a vaccine is ready and now being administered*
*Previous phrasing: *I am confident the end of COVID-19 is nearer now that a vaccine is ready and being used*

Base: Total sample, base varies

APPENDIX – PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

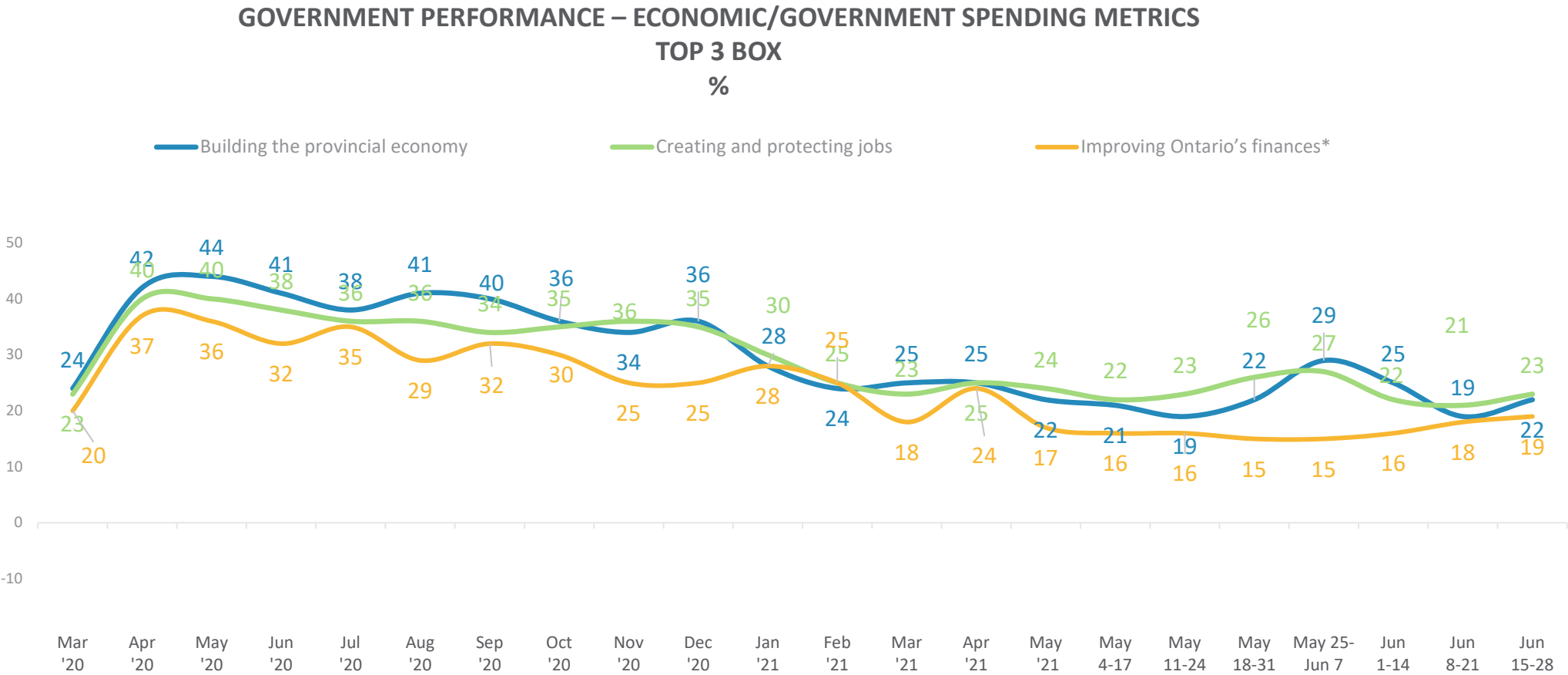


Positive perceptions on ‘ensuring excellent public education’ remained steady again this week.



Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
Bases vary

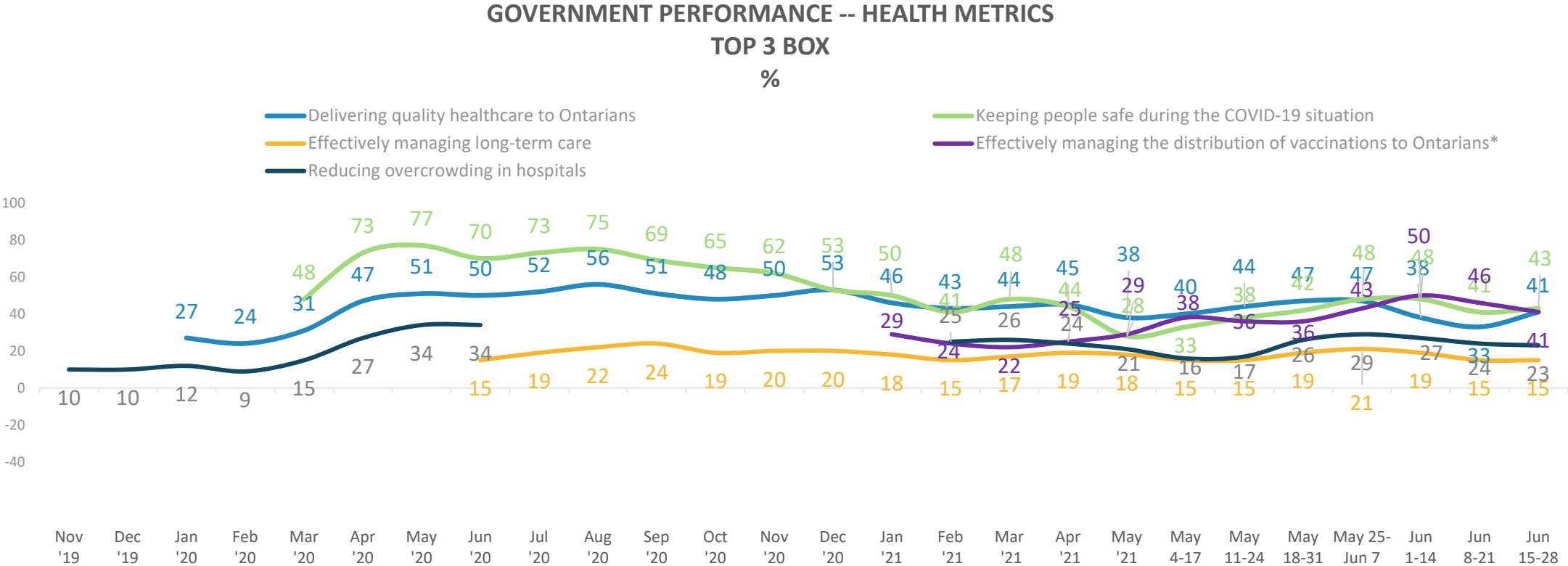
There was a slight uptick in positive perceptions toward the government’s performance on all three economic/government spending metrics.



Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?

*Former phrasing: “Improve Ontario’s finances”
**Former phrasing: “Sufficient business support during the COVID-19 situation”
Bases vary

This week, ‘delivering quality healthcare to Ontarians’ experienced an increase. However, there was a decline in the rating of the government’s performance for ‘effectively managing the distribution of vaccinations to Ontarians’.



Q5. Using a scale where 1 means “poor” and nine is “excellent”, how would you rate the performance of Ontario government at managing each of the following?
*Former phrasing: “Effectively managing the vaccinations of Ontarians”
Bases vary